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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the following documents:

(a) Statement of 8 January 1993 of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the resolution on the raping of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Parliament (see annex I);

(b) Letter dated 30 December 1992 from the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the President of the European Parliament concerning the resolution on the raping of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Parliament (see annex II);

(c) Protest of the Doctors of Serbia, issued by the Serbian Medical Association on 14 January 1993 (see annex III).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Human rights questions: Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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English

ANNEX I

Statement of 8 January 1992 of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the resolution on the raping of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Parliament

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia examined the resolution of the European Parliament on the raping of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia, which denounced detention and raping of Muslim women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, the resolution completely ignored and did not condemn similar crimes committed against Serbian and other women in the region. The information received so far and the statements of victims who fled Bosnia and Herzegovina have been made available to the Federal Government and will be sent to the European Parliament. It has already been transmitted to United Nations bodies as an official document.

The Federal Government is of the opinion that such crimes should be most strongly condemned and those responsible for them, whoever they are and wherever they have occurred, should be punished. We consider that the abuse of women in war zones, whether undertaken within the strategy of "ethnic cleansing" or for some other purposes, is an utterly inhumane act and a crime which is not only contrary to international humanitarian law but also to the basic precepts of morals, honesty and dignity.

The Federal Government disapproved of the one-sided approach espoused by the sponsors of the resolution, who, without adequately checking the allegations and prior to a properly conducted investigation and gathering of evidence, have blamed only Serbs for the abuses covered by the resolution.

Precisely for this reason, we support the idea of an early establishment of impartial international investigative commissions, which will be charged with the task of investigating facts and collecting the necessary information in order to try and punish those who committed these crimes. Such inquests, we firmly believe, will, on the basis of reliable information, also contribute to removing the biased and unproved doubts of the European Parliament as to the nationality of both perpetrators and victims of the crime of rape against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Believing that there is room for concern and timely response, even in case of the possibility of commission of such crimes and because of their obvious use as war propaganda, the Federal Government emphasizes its readiness to take part in the inquest by providing evidence on the crimes from sources available to it.

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ANNEX II

Letter dated 30 December 1992 from the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the President of the European Parliament

Through the Yugoslav Consulate General in Strasbourg we have received the resolution on the raping of women in the former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Parliament.

We have noted that its paragraphs, in particular some of the allegations, are based on misinformation which might lead to false, harmful and perilous conclusions.

We believe that this was the result of the one-sided and biased approach to the Yugoslav crisis by the European Parliament over a longer period as a consequence of its reliance entirely on one source of information.

Preambular paragraphs B, C and D and operative paragraph 1 of the resolution are the most flagrant examples of distortion of facts, blaming only Serbian militias for the war crimes of raping Moslem women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is well known, however, that the war crimes of rape have been committed by all the three parties to the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, any insistence on the responsibility of only one party over the other two would minimize or justify their crimes. The most striking allegation is the one in preambular paragraph C that the Serbian militias hold large numbers of women in brothels while, in reality, such systematic crimes have been committed almost exclusively by Moslem militias, who have organized brothels in which women are sexually abused with the full knowledge and acknowledgement of the recognized Moslem authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina (e.g., brothels in Sarajevo, Tuzla).

We express our deep resentment of the superficial and inaccurate nature of the information referred to in the resolution and wish to draw attention to its deleterious effects on the truth and the cause of peace.

The Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is in possession of information which, if it had been used, would have made the adopted text more balanced. Accordingly, this information shall be made available to the members of the European Parliament for their use on request.

A visit by a delegation of the European Parliament to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or a delegation of the Federal Assembly to Strasbourg could, in our opinion, contribute to a better perception of facts and to joining our efforts aimed at an immediate and unconditional cessation of all

hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina as the quickest and most effective way of ending all violations of human rights and war crimes committed in the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

FOR THE CHAMBER OF REPUBLICS

Dr. Miloš RADULOVIĆ
President

FOR THE CHAMBER OF CITIZENS

Jugoslav KOSTIĆ
President

ANNEX III

Protest of the Doctors of Serbia, issued by the Serbian Medical Association on 14 January 1993

On behalf of the doctors of Serbia we strongly protest against and are repelled at the absurd allegations of Mr. Stefan Schwartz, a member of the German Parliament, about in vivo experiments of "Serbian doctors on Muslim women". In his speech delivered in the German Parliament and in his statements on television, published in late December in the German newspaper Bild am Sontag and in the Dutch newspapers Haagache Courant and Folkskrant, Mr. Schwartz alleged, on the basis of a statement made by a witness, that criminal experiments had been carried out, particularly on Muslim women.

The absurdity of this statement and the sick and evil intentions are demonstrated by the fact that evidence for such allegations, which equal the worst horror movie, is sought in the statement of an unidentified Croatian woman doctor, who said that during the autopsy on a Muslim woman she found an implanted dog embryo in her uterus after abortion. The purpose of this story is evidently to further demonize the Serbs and Serbian doctors in an unending process culminating in insanity.

We recall that the Serbian Medical Association and its Ethics Committee have, in the best tradition of Serbian medicine, always supported peace and appealed a number of times against the destruction of cities, killing of people, horrors of the so-called ethnic cleansing and other bestialities accompanying this civil, ethnic and religious war. It has also supported tolerance and the highest humanistic principles.

Among the 540,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina who fled to Serbia, there are 34,000 Muslims, 8,000 Croats and 43,000 others (Jews, Romanies, Hungarians, Albanians, Bulgarians and others) who received free medical treatment and all other benefits enjoyed by Serbian refugees.

The doctors of Serbia demand that their reputation be protected and accuse those who, with impunity and without any evidence, mar their reputation. We hope that these senseless and grotesque allegations will backfire on those who spread them primarily in their own communities.

For the Ethics Committee of the
Serbian Medical Association

Prof. Dr. Milan POPOVIĆ
Chairman

For the Serbian Medical
Association

Prof. Dr. Vojin ŠULOVIĆ
Academician
President